

# NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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***For Immediate Release***

**FEBRUARY 11, 2005**

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on February 10, 2005, **ANTHONY T. GARRETT, a/k/a ANTONE WHOOTEN**, age 27, of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, pleaded guilty to a one-count Indictment in Federal Court in Benton, Illinois.

The Indictment charged that on July 5, 2004, in Jefferson County, GARRETT, who had previously been convicted of a felony under the laws of the State of Illinois on or about August 23, 2000, to wit: Aggravated Battery, in the Circuit Court for the Second Judicial Circuit, Jefferson County, Illinois, Case No. 00-CF-132, did knowingly possess in and affecting interstate commerce the following firearm: a High Standard Corporation, Model Sentinel, .22 caliber revolver, serial number 1615650, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(2).

The facts established that on July 5, 2004, the Mt. Vernon Police Department received a 911 call that a man was holding a woman hostage inside her residence and that he had a gun. Law enforcement officers went to the house. When GARRETT exited the residence, the officers approach him and discovered a firearm in GARRETT's waistband. GARRETT had previously been convicted of the felony of Aggravated Battery.

A sentencing hearing for GARRETT has been set for May 13, 2005, at the United States Courthouse in Benton, Illinois. GARRETT faces a penalty of up to 10 years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, and a term of supervised release of up to 3 years.

The investigation in this case was a cooperative effort between the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative.

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County State's Attorney's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and Illinois State Police directed at removing guns and drugs from our communities.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George Norwood.